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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,312	06/26/2001	Siew Fei Lee	70005452-1	2336

7590 03/31/2004

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administraion
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

LANEAU, RONALD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/892,312

Applicant(s)

LEE, SIEW FEI

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant discloses in claims 1 and 20 “a first and a second directional contact, said first and second directional contacts being arranged so that they are closed upon movement of the joy-dial in a first or second direction respectively.” The directional contact arrangement with regard to the joy-dial is unclear. Applicant is required to describe the relationship between the movement of the joy-dial and the arrangement of the first and second directional contacts.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

As per claims 1 –19, a joy-dial for providing input signals to a device wherein a contact located below and associated with each of the diaphragms and arranged so that pressure applied to the joy pad at one of the x- or y-axis input positions results in deformation of the corresponding diaphragm and closure of the associated contact, and wherein the joy-dial further includes a first and a second directional contact, said first and second directional contacts being

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arranged so that they are closed upon movement of the joy-dial in a first or a second direction respectively.

As per claims 20-22, an information device having at least one joy-dial wherein a contact located below and associated with each of the diaphragms and arranged so that pressure applied to the joy pad at one of the x- or y-axis input positions results in deformation of the corresponding diaphragm and closure of the associated contact, and wherein the joy-dial further includes a first and a second directional contact, said first and second directional contacts being arranged so that they are closed upon movement of the joy-dial in a first or a second direction respectively.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Panagrossi (US 6,208,328) teaches a data entry device with a digitizer having key input regions for receiving stroke inputs.
- Kawachiya et al (US 6,208,328) teach a manipulative pointing device and portable information processing apparatus.
- Tamagawa et al (US 6,603,708) teach an input object selector of a finger touch type that can be installed in a small space.
- Gettemy (US 2004/0046739) teaches a portable electronic device or handheld computer having a pliable sensor that provides input from the hand of a user by applying pressure to the pliable sensor.

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- JP02002328772A discloses an information processor to improve the operability of a joy dial.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is 703-305-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM or via email: ronald.laneau@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached at 703-305-4709.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

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Ronald Laneau
Examiner
Art Unit 2674

rl
March 19, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hjerpe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600